

1 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
2 FOR THE GRAZING ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REVISION
3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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held on

Tuesday, March 25, 2003
6:16 p.m.
Hilton of Albuquerque
1901 University Blvd., N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: YVONNE C. GONZALES, CCR #62
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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 For the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land
Management:

3
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MICHAEL R. HOLBERT, Senior Rangeland
Management Specialist
5 TIM REUWSAAT, Rangeland, Soil,
Water & Air Group Manager
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7 Washington, D.C. 20240

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9 I N D E X

	Page
10 PUBLIC COMMENTS BY	
11 Mike Casabonne	4
John Y. Hernandez	6
12 Clare Ramsay	8
Robert V. Johnson	10
13 Lloyd Maness	11
R. W. Johnson	12
14 Alan Gardner	13
Joel Alderete	17
15 Ernie Etchurt	17
Sue Maness	19
16 R. L. Posey	20
Jim Maynard	20
17 Dennis Braden	22
Lewis Derreck	23
18 Kelli Makowski	24
Mark Kannon	24
19 Charlotte Mitchell	25
John Shawcraft	26
20 Gerald L. Chacon	30
Tom Runyan	31
21 Elizabeth Johnson	33
Randell Major	33
22 Roy Farr	33
Bob Jones	34
23 Bobby Jones	35
Ronnie Merritt	36
24 Linn Blancett	37
25	

1	I N D E X (Continued)	
2	PUBLIC COMMENTS BY	Page
3	Tweetie Blancett	37
	David Strip	39
4	Bonnie Kline	40
	Laurie Fulkerson	41
5	George Douds	45
	Dell LeFevre	45
6	Pete Brawley	46
	Joe Romero	48
7		
8	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	50

9

10 E X H I B I T S

11

12 1 - Letters submitted by Mr. John Hernandez

13

14 2 - Position Paper submitted Ms. Tweetie Blancett

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1 MR. REUWSAAT: Mr. Casabonne.

2 MR. CASABONNE: Thank you. My name is Mike
3 Casabonne. I represent the New Mexico Public Lands
4 Council. And we're an organization of permittees. We
5 represent most of the public land grazing permittees in
6 the state whether on BLM, forest service, or state trust
7 lands.

8 We also have, as membership on our board,
9 representation from the New Mexico Cattle Growers, New
10 Mexico Wool Growers, the New Mexico Farm and Livestock
11 Bureau and the grazing associations within the state to
12 represent public land grazing permittees.

13 First, I want to express my appreciation to
14 you, Deputy Director Hughes, and the rest of you from the
15 Washington office, for coming down here for this hearing.
16 We appreciate you being here, and to Director Clark and
17 Secretary Norton for undertaking this process to modify
18 these regulations.

19 We think that there can be modifications to
20 these regulations that will be beneficial to us and to the
21 resource. We also realize that our nation is at war now.
22 That's in the back of all of our minds. This may not be
23 the most important process that's going on with the
24 administration today. In light of that, we really do
25 appreciate the attention that's being placed on our

1 industry and all these issues.

2 Again, I know all of us here believe that
3 there could be many changes to these regulations that can
4 benefit the administration of our industry and will help
5 us cooperate with the agency in improving the resource.

6 The range livestock industry is the fourth
7 largest sector in New Mexico economy. It has
8 long-producing and sustained growth and stability.
9 Because of the new culture, livestock production must be
10 recognized and rewarded with an incentive program to
11 stimulate long-term investments. This would be
12 accomplished by lengthening the term of the permit and
13 reinstating ownership of improvements.

14 Vegetation monitoring will assure that the
15 long-term range condition and trend is stable, or upward,
16 to enhance the resource for future generations, to provide
17 positive economic returns and stability of the range
18 livestock industry and to explicitly recognize the custom
19 and culture of the vital human resources of the state of
20 New Mexico and the importance of local economy and
21 infrastructures.

22 The New Mexico livestock industry has long
23 awaited for the Bureau of Land Management to revisit its
24 regulatory process. The regulations in place for the past
25 decade, coupled with an ongoing drought, have made

1 allotment improvement virtually impossible. If we were to
2 enhance the range condition to meet the wide variety of
3 needs BLM lands are now providing, allotment owners must
4 have the incentive and the ability to improve their
5 allotments.

6 We applaud this first step toward reform by
7 the BLM and look forward to providing detailed, written
8 comments by the May 2 deadline, as well as participating
9 in the rest of the entire process.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Casabonne.
12 John Hernandez.

13 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm John Hernandez. I'm
14 from Cuba, New Mexico. I'm a seasonal permittee. I run
15 on the Forest Service and I run on the BLM. I have some
16 written comments I'd like to turn in to you.

17 MR. HOLBERT: You can give it to the court
18 reporter.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Because I'm a seasonal
20 permittee, we have two main problems. Specifically in
21 your rules and regulations under 4130.8-1, Paragraph C,
22 you have wording in the regulation that reads -- and I
23 quote -- "at the time of entering public lands or other
24 lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management."

25 The problem that we're having is that our

1 calves are born on the BLM, and then we exit and go to the
2 Forest Service. At the time we come back into the BLM,
3 those calves are counted as AUMs at six months of age.

4 The federal permittees that are with us at
5 the time -- because they're yearlong permittees -- you
6 guys extend the time out and allow them to run for 12
7 months. The hitch is, your state office says that because
8 they never exit BLM lands, those calves are allowed to run
9 for 12 months.

10 It's a double standard. It affects those of
11 us that are seasonal permittees. It should be equal
12 across the board for all the permittees.

13 The second point that I wanted to bring up
14 to you: in your billing process, several times we've had
15 different members of BLM ask us to take cuts in the fall
16 of the year when we have already paid the bill in the
17 spring of the year.

18 There is no process in your rules and
19 regulations -- except for a refund -- for you to allow us
20 to have a credit. And then you have to allow us -- or
21 then we have to write you a letter -- I think it's a month
22 ahead of time -- or we don't know, because we're on the
23 forest when we come off -- where you guys are going to ask
24 us to take a cut or not take a cut.

25 It would be easier if you would allow us to

1 have a credit. I mean, just simply say, "Well, here.
2 These are the numbers that we're turning in." Then we
3 receive a credit. Apply it to next year's bill.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Clare Ramsay.

6 MS. RAMSAY: Yes. My name is Clare Ramsay.

7 I'm a Commissioner from Garfield County in southern Utah.

8 I'm here representing the people of Garfield County.

9 Last month, I believe it was, I was

10 privileged to listen to Kathleen Clark, our director, put
11 forth her proposal for mud fine regulations in Casper,
12 Wyoming. I was in Casper, Wyoming, at the time she was
13 there. I was very, very happy to see the direction which
14 BLM is going in pertaining to these regulations.

15 We at Garfield County, southern Utah,
16 wholeheartedly support most -- or at least the concept,
17 that Kathleen and the Interior Department has put forth in
18 these regs.

19 There are several there, though, that I
20 would like to suggest perhaps a little tweaking, that
21 would more completely address some of the things that we'd
22 like to see. Like I said, I'd like to go over those just
23 a bit, if I could.

24 Number one, the idea of the reserve common
25 allotment, which is more commonly known as the green bank.

1 That's a very good concept, we feel. By the way, we feel
2 like all of these regs changes is honestly being done to
3 support and benefit the permittees. We appreciate that.

4 But as far as the green bank is concerned,
5 we believe that a couple of issues to address on this
6 topic might include: reserve common allotments should be
7 drawn from vacant allotments, not created by kicking
8 permittees off an existing allotment. The agency should
9 also devise a process for allocating forage under the
10 reserve common allotment program. That's one of our
11 concerns.

12 Another that we're quite concerned with, but
13 -- I know that it was done with good intentions. That was
14 the regulation extending the permitted nonuse from three
15 to five years. We feel that this provision should be
16 drafted in such a way that it applies only to people
17 engaging in the livestock business, as required by the
18 Taylor Grazing Act. And thus provides flexibility to bona
19 fide rancher permittees. It should not be allowed to be
20 an excuse to permit conservation use of an allotment by
21 someone not engaging in the ranching business.

22 Another area that we have some concern with
23 -- and these aren't big items, I suppose, but another is
24 -- of the regulations -- is to examine whether the BLM --
25 this is a proposal -- whether the BLM should authorize

1 temporary lock gates on federal lands to protect livestock
2 operations. We believe that it might lead one to believe
3 that the BLM could limit access to federal lands to
4 livestock permittees.

5 If this is the case, we would oppose it,
6 from our position. If, however, the regulations were
7 changed to allow the BLM to authorize temporary closure so
8 that the permittee could take some action that was
9 beneficial to the ranch operations, it might be something
10 that we could support.

11 The last one, requiring permittees to apply
12 for a renewal -- we feel that that might create somewhat
13 of a burden to the permittee in the application process.

14 But those are our concerns. I know they're
15 not huge items. But we would like to have them considered
16 to be re-assessed before they're written into the
17 permanent regulations. Thank you very much.

18 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Frank
19 Brooks. Frank Brooks. Maybe later. Robert Johnson.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you-all for coming to
21 New Mexico. My name is Robert Johnson. I'm a permittee
22 up in the Farmington area. And I don't really have any
23 opposition to your proposals. I just thought I would make
24 some comments on what I felt was needed on the range.

25 That is, we're coming out of a drought, but

1 the degradation that I see on the ranch -- I mean, the
2 lack of grazing value, I guess I should say, comes from a
3 lot of the range is not adequately watered. If some way
4 through regulation, you could see fit to make it easier to
5 build abutments or other type waterings, I think it would
6 readily help the ranchers and the wildlife -- useability
7 of the range in general.

8 The other thing that I see is -- it falls
9 into a different deal, but in grazing areas close to
10 municipalities and so forth -- the impact from overuse, I
11 guess, of the people in town, can greatly impact the
12 grazing ability in those areas.

13 I thank you for the time to make these
14 comments.

15 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. I'll
16 try Frank Brooks again. Lloyd Maness. I'm not sure my
17 reading ability is correct.

18 MR. MANESS: My name is Lloyd Maness. I'm a
19 permittee down in the Roswell area. Basically, everything
20 that I have problems with has been discussed, although I
21 would like to see a little more leniency towards the
22 producer or the permittee to change his operation a little
23 bit. I've got some areas that I would like to change to
24 facilitate the raising of my stock and also to facilitate
25 the range habitat on my ranch.

1 Due to the current regulations -- they're
2 pretty much cut and dried. You can't do any changing or
3 anything like that. In other words, what we've got is
4 what we've got to live with. I think with a little more
5 management by the person in the field, on the ranch, we
6 can improve our range program a bunch. Thank you.

7 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. R. W. Johnson.

8 MR. R. W. JOHNSON: Too many Robert Johnsons
9 in here, I guess. That's my son. I just want to say --
10 you know, I'm Robert W. Johnson. I'm a rancher and
11 permittee in Sandoval County. I also represent the Farm
12 Bureau in Sandoval County.

13 I've been a permittee all of my life. We
14 grew up in Sandoval County. And the only lands that's in
15 that county is -- at that time -- was back in the
16 homestead days -- 85 percent of Sandoval County is
17 federally owned land. So we only have about 15 percent of
18 the county that's not under either Indian forest or BLM.

19 So these lands are extremely important to
20 the agricultural community in that county. We feel that
21 the regulations that were put in place in '94 have been a
22 detriment to the ranching/agricultural community. It's
23 been a detriment to the local economy. And we feel it's
24 been a detriment to BLM, to their management, to maintain
25 and sustain the quality of production on the land.

1 We've had an extreme drought most -- a lot
2 of cattle are gone. But the ability for us to operate and
3 maintain and improve the land is impaired by many of these
4 regulations.

5 I want to commend whoever ordered this
6 review. And I am not truly prepared to make comments, as
7 I had not had time to review these comments. But I'm
8 looking forward to giving written comments on May 2 on
9 these proposed changes. Thank you very much.

10 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Alan Gardner.

11 MR. GARDNER: Thank you. I have some
12 comments I would like to read. My name is Alan Gardner.
13 I'm the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for
14 Washington County, Utah; also immediate past president of
15 the Washington County Cattlemen's Association. We're
16 located in the southwest corner of Utah.

17 Historically, grazing has been a very
18 important economic base in our county. Citizens in our
19 county run on public lands in Utah and neighboring
20 northern Arizona and eastern Nevada. My son and nephews
21 are the sixth generation in our family to be involved in
22 the livestock business in that area since the mid-1800s.

23 Washington County has a good relationship
24 with BLM. We have worked together jointly to resolve many
25 issues in the county. We recognize the value of working

1 together in developing and implementing programs and
2 practices that will assure us sustained yield on America's
3 public land resource and continue to provide social and
4 economic benefits for home and public use management.

5 I appreciate the opportunity to address you
6 here at this scoping meeting tonight. And I recognize
7 this is an opportunity to outline our desires for
8 substantive change in several areas of the BLM regulations
9 that can benefit the economic and social structure of the
10 West by reaffirming principles of the Taylor Grazing Act
11 and perpetuating the heritage of the communities built on
12 the historical and authorized practice of grazing domestic
13 livestock on the vast rangeland resources managed by BLM.

14 The majority of Utah's rural communities are
15 built on the livestock industry. Economic research at
16 Utah State University estimates that more than two and a
17 half billion in economic activity is generated through
18 public land grazing in Utah. This is a significant factor
19 in our entire state economy.

20 Utah's ranching is built upon the
21 authorization of grazing livestock on public lands
22 established under the Taylor Grazing Act. Access to
23 public land grazing is important in securing operating
24 credit for our commercial operators.

25 NEPA compliance requires that economic and

1 social impacts be considered in the environmental
2 statements and the environmental analyses. Livestock
3 grazing forms a vital basis for the rich, cultural
4 heritage of the West. This heritage needs to be preserved
5 and considered in NEPA analyses.

6 The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 established
7 the principle of using grazing preference to describe the
8 amount of forage to which a landowner is entitled to
9 harvest from the public lands. This concept was redefined
10 and modified under rangeland reform to be no more than a
11 permitted use of the land.

12 This change in regulation has allowed BLM to
13 ratchet down the number of AUMs that's historically held
14 under grazing preference for their allotment. We urge
15 reinstatement of the grazing preference to the way it was
16 defined in BLM prior to 1995.

17 A part of the Taylor Grazing Act that
18 assured the person owning the grazing permit be a bona
19 fide livestock operator with base property is a good
20 concept. This has since been shown -- since the inception
21 of the act -- by the improvement in our range conditions.
22 The ones who take the best care of the land are the ones
23 who rely on it for their sustenance.

24 Any transfer of the grazing preference
25 should also be to another qualified livestock operator.

1 Good livestock operators also build and perpetuate their
2 careers through the principle of stewardship, conservation
3 and enhancement of the natural resources that sustain
4 their herds.

5 Ranchers often invest their time and money
6 in developing improvements on their public lands,
7 including stock watering facilities that benefit wildlife
8 as well as livestock. As an incentive for this
9 investment, range improvements need to be owned, at least
10 in part, by a permittee. It's hard, if not impossible, to
11 invest money into something that you don't own.

12 Farmers and ranchers who pay to construct
13 range improvements should have an ownership interest in
14 them. We would support this provision in BLM regulations
15 as it existed prior to rangeland reform.

16 There's been efforts by some federal
17 agencies to claim reserve federal water rights or
18 otherwise acquired water rights outside the state water
19 system, although any water rights should be only acquired
20 through the process established under state water law. We
21 urge an amendment that would allow water rights for
22 livestock grazing to be acquired in the name of the
23 permittee, as it was allowed before 1995.

24 We appreciate the opportunity to be here.
25 We appreciate you coming out here and holding these

1 hearings. We express our appreciation to Director Clark.

2 We appreciate it. Thank you.

3 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Joel Alderete.

4 MR. ALDERETE: Thank you, gentlemen. Joel
5 Alderete with the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau. I
6 think Mike Casabonne pretty much stated what the
7 industry's thoughts are in New Mexico. I'm not going to
8 reiterate a lot of what he said. We have a lot of
9 producers that are on the ground here today.

10 One thing that I would like to emphasize on
11 is something that you guys talked about in your --
12 changing your thing. That was the economic and social and
13 cultural impacts. Too many times, when the federal
14 agencies take these into consideration and -- they take
15 them on a state or national level -- and it diminishes the
16 effects on the local communities. We want that taken back
17 to the ground.

18 That's one of our concerns. There is a lot
19 of stuff in here that you guys want to change, and that we
20 wholeheartedly agree to. We will be submitting detailed
21 comments by May 2.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Ernie Etchurt.

24 MR. ETCHURT: Good evening. Thank you. I
25 want to thank the department and the BLM for this

1 opportunity. My name is Ernie Etchurt. I'm president of
2 the Colorado Wool Growers Association. I'm here on behalf
3 of the wool growers who are BLM permittees in our state.

4 I want to support the department and BLM's
5 attempts and endeavors to change the grazing regs. We do,
6 on behalf of the Colorado Wool Growers, support that.

7 I'll try to keep my comments below six
8 minutes so I don't get the hook or the look. My comments
9 are under "reserve common allotments." We encourage that
10 if there are any retired or vacant allotments -- that
11 those be used as your reserve common allotments. We think
12 that's a positive step in putting some of those allotments
13 back into production.

14 Under qualifications for livestock grazing
15 permit, we emphasize that a permittee must be engaged in
16 the livestock business in order to qualify for a permit.
17 We feel that that's very necessary. That he show a
18 necessity to graze livestock. So we think that's real
19 important.

20 Shared title to improvements. According to
21 the percentage that has been invested, we think that if a
22 permittee has invested 100 percent of the cost in an
23 improvement, that he should receive title to that
24 improvement.

25 Lock gates. At certain areas and in certain

1 situations, we also encourage that. We think it's
2 important to minimize, at times, disturbance to livestock,
3 especially in lambing grounds or calving grounds. An
4 inability to protect private property deems that necessary
5 as well.

6 We also feel that the three-year nonuse
7 provision is adequate. We think that that's okay. We
8 also support the nonpermit violation revision, because
9 some of those regs are broad and are left to broad
10 interpretations.

11 So, again, thank you for the opportunity.

12 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Particularly for
13 staying under six minutes. Sue Maness.

14 MS. MANESS: I'm Sue Maness of the Corona
15 area. A New Mexico permittee. We haven't done a lot of
16 -- repair a lot of the improvements on BLM lands. Due to
17 the -- what should I say? Not knowing who owns the
18 improvements.

19 My father built the spreader dams on that
20 ranch to slow down the runoff, so that the grasslands
21 didn't just canyon out. Some of those have washed out in
22 the past ten years. And I haven't felt it was to my
23 benefit to go out and fix them if I wasn't going to own
24 them.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. I'm going to
2 butcher this one. R. L. Posey?

3 MR. POSEY: If you butchered it, I would
4 sure hate for you to butcher one of my beefs. My name is
5 R. L. Posey -- initials only. I'm a producer that lives
6 in Otero County, a little community called Mayhill, which
7 is 40 miles east of Alamogordo.

8 I appreciate you people coming down here,
9 but next time, bring some rain. Also, I appreciate the
10 effort that you're taking to review these rules and update
11 them. As we know, in a dynamic society, that things don't
12 stay the same. And we need to continue to review these
13 situations.

14 Many of the things that I would like to
15 bring up have already been discussed, especially by
16 Mr. Casabonne and Mr. Alderete. And I will send in
17 written comments before the 2nd of May.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Posey. Jim
20 Maynard.

21 MR. MAYNARD: Good evening. Thank you for
22 this opportunity to address this. We appreciate your
23 willingness to review this.

24 I'm Jim Maynard, Southwest Resource

25 Consultants, LLC. I'm a rangeland management consultant.

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21

1 I'm in general agreement with the -- most of the points
2 that need to be addressed, including the definitions that
3 were set out. Those need to be reviewed and closely
4 defined; otherwise, the other issues to be looked at
5 aren't going to make a lot of sense.

6 On the range improvements, shared ownership
7 is fine. I think if a permittee has an opportunity to own
8 100 percent, that should be available. The lack of
9 ownership of these improvements, in my experience, has
10 contributed greatly to the deterioration of a lot of
11 what's already out there on the ground.

12 It would also be advantageous to streamline
13 some of the permitting processes for other improvements,
14 such as the spreader dams that were mentioned earlier, and
15 getting through some of the ARC studies and RSs.

16 I work with a number of clients who are
17 extremely concerned about the condition of the rangelands.
18 However, they find, oftentimes, the ability to address
19 problems on the ground in a timely manner to be somewhat
20 difficult.

21 I concur with the idea that BLM should
22 follow state law concerning water rights. The appeal
23 process does need to be streamlined and addressed and
24 perhaps limitations on level of appeal.

25 Nonuse of forage. I think perhaps the

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22

1 extension of that to a five-year period would be
2 appropriate. It could be done on a case-by-case basis.
3 We're in a drought right now. Sometimes recovery in
4 certain areas may take longer than three years.

5 Addressing social, economic and cultural
6 values and decision-making processes with respect to NEPA
7 needs to be done at the local level. It is very, very
8 important in our small communities that we keep those
9 things in mind and addressed.

10 Reserve common allotments should be
11 approached very cautiously. I would not personally
12 support anything that would deprive a current permittee of
13 an allotment. That would be unacceptable.

14 I do appreciate this opportunity. We would
15 be contributing to the written comments by May 2. Thank
16 you.

17 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Dennis Braden.

18 MR. BRADEN: Dennis Braden, Northern New
19 Mexico Esperanza Permittee Association and Permittee
20 Allotment; Board of Directors, Northern New Mexico Cattle
21 Raisers and Board of Directors of New Mexico Cattle
22 Growers.

23 Thank you, Deputy Director Jim Hughes.
24 Thank Director Kathleen Clark and the rest of the BLM for

25 revisiting the grazing regs. It's high time. I'm glad to

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1 see it. You haven't got to use your flash cards tonight.

2 I can promise you that you won't with me either.

3 I don't have any written statement tonight,
4 but will submit one before May 2. I would like to echo
5 Mike Casabonne's comments, the gentleman from Washington
6 County -- I think that's correct -- Utah. I applaud the
7 direction that it looks like you're headed with the review
8 that you're doing.

9 The partnership piece of this -- of this,
10 with the BLM and the permittees. I think we lost -- it
11 feels like, to me, we lost a big portion of that as of
12 1994. I think this is a good step in putting that back.
13 Good partnerships.

14 I think the basis to that is incentives,
15 longer terms, safer permits that people can afford to put
16 capital improvements into, that pays dividends to the
17 environment, the permit and the people with the livestock.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Lewis
20 Derreck.

21 MR. DERRECK: My name is Lewis Derreck. I
22 represent the Southeastern Grazing Association.
23 Hopefully, some of these definitions or regulations get
24 back to the congressional intent of what the Taylor

25 Grazing Act was supposed to be. Also to bring back

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24

1 stability, not only for the livestock industry, but for
2 the tax base, jobs for county government in rural
3 counties.

4 Thinking about this since the regulations
5 passed -- the rangeland reform in '94 passed -- we hadn't
6 had rain. So, hopefully, we can get these things changed
7 back and it will start raining back in New Mexico.

8 But as far as the -- we will be making
9 detailed, written comments at a later date, from the
10 Southeastern Grazing Association. We thank you for your
11 time.

12 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Kelli Makowski.

13 MS. MAKOWSKI: My name is Kelli Makowski
14 with the New Mexico Wool Growers. First, I would like to
15 thank the department and the BLM for going through this
16 process and taking a look at the grazing regulations, and
17 thank you guys for coming down here to take our input.

18 We're very supportive of this process. We
19 feel that there are changes that can be made to help both
20 the permittees and the resource, especially allowing
21 permittees to have ownership in improvements and
22 considering the local economic impacts of BLM decisions.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Mark Kannon.

25

MR. KANNON: My name is Mark Kannon. I'm a

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1 rancher in northern Sandoval County, about a hundred miles
2 northwest of here. I don't have a job to support my
3 habit. I just rely on my cattle and they rely on me. We
4 both on rely on the ground. We try and take care of it.

5 I would like to agree with your first
6 speaker, Mike Casabonne, and would like to add that there
7 is a lot of illegal wood hauling going on, on BLM land.
8 Mostly out where I'm at. It does a lot of damage. I
9 think it would be good to have it looked at.

10 I would like to see some of these meetings
11 -- I know they don't happen very often. But when they do,
12 it would be nice to have it in the afternoon earlier, to
13 give people that live four or five hours away a chance to
14 get here. Thanks for listening.

15 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Charlotte
16 Mitchell.

17 MS. MITCHELL: I'm Charlotte Mitchell. I'm
18 on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Farm and
19 Livestock Bureau.

20 My concern is primarily water. This state,
21 as you're well aware, is going through a terrible drought.
22 So, New Mexico owns the water. It doesn't belong to the
23 federal government. The federal government is not
24 obligated in any way to pay Texas for water that we owe

25 them in the compact.

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26

1 So, therefore, I think it's very imperative
2 that the BLM, if they need water, if they want to acquire
3 some water rights, that they follow the process, the state
4 law, in order to acquire water rights. Thank you.

5 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. John Shawcraft.

6 MR. SHAWCRAFT: I'm John Shawcraft from
7 Colorado. I graze cattle in New Mexico, on three
8 different allotments. I'm here today as a consequence of
9 having a son that I introduced to the farm bureau, and the
10 first thing I knew, he was vice-president of the Colorado
11 Farm Bureau, and the next thing I knew, he delegated me to
12 come to this meeting. He didn't give me any notice, to
13 speak of.

14 I told him I wouldn't and couldn't and
15 shouldn't. He knew very well my weakness. And he says,
16 "Your granddaughter will go with you if you'll go." That
17 little lady is close to my heart, as my heart is hard. So
18 this is an opportunity to be with her, and that's why I'm
19 here.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, I can assure you that
21 the Lord hears and answers our prayers. When Bruce
22 Babbitt was a doing what he did, I was praying day and
23 night that something would happen to get that man out of
24 our way. Lo and behold, this is a great and glorious

25 opportunity to repair some of the damage that that

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27

1 gentleman did. You remember, I called him a gentleman.

2 So I'm here to represent the Farm Bureau.

3 And I just retired from the CCA board, Colorado

4 Cattlemen's. I'm president of the Sandoval Permittee

5 Association. So I've been exposed to the federal

6 government, as you can tell by the looks of my hair, for a

7 while.

8 Now, with this reserve common allotment, I

9 don't think we have enough information here to be

10 supportive or critical. But we do have a little program

11 in New Mexico that is similar to this. When this reserve

12 becomes available, there's a lot of people that want it.

13 And it becomes a political guessing game as to who's going

14 to get it. I think that's what you really have to watch

15 out for. It's hard to be fair and not be political in

16 this effort.

17 You better hold your cards, because I've got

18 a lot to say. One time we built a set of corrals in the

19 Forest Service. We were very careful to make sure the

20 corral was out of sight and made sure that we furnished

21 all the material and did all the work. One day the ranger

22 called me and says, "John, where's the key to that

23 corral?"

24 I said, "What are you talking about? You
25 don't have a right to that key."

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28

1 "Oh, yes, we do. This is federal land.
2 It's a federal corral."

3 I said, "No, it's not. We built it. We
4 furnished the material. It's ours."

5 He says, "You better get me the key."

6 Well, I said, "We may pick up the corral,
7 but we won't give you the key." Because we were supposed
8 to, in the agreement, only use the corral to unload the
9 semi and get them out. It was a requirement that we
10 retain the green sod on the bottom of the corral. So
11 there was no way to do that and turn it over to the
12 hunters and fishermen. So I refused to give him the key.

13 Now, I think this demonstrates the fact that
14 we do need a partnership in the efforts that we do. I
15 have a good understanding. We got a tax bill from the
16 county on our cabin. The next week we got a notice from
17 the Forest Service. We need a special permit.

18 So I go up to the forest people and I says,
19 "Which one shall we do? We're not going to do both." So
20 we worked that out.

21 We definitely have got to share in the
22 improvements or it will never work. Extending the nonuse
23 to five years is very commendable and charitable, and I

24 appreciate it. We're in a drought here where I sold 30 of
25 my cattle. I took a third of them to Missouri and I'm

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29

1 starving the other third.

2 On the water rights -- you can tell that I
3 have had a lot of experience. A couple of years ago we
4 loaded our truck full of water out of the river. Here
5 come the State Engineer. "You cannot do that. You
6 haven't got any decree for any water out of the river."

7 I said, "We've been watering the cattle out
8 of the river for years and years and years." It only
9 takes 1,000 gallons for the cows.

10 He says, "You can't do it. You can't do
11 it."

12 Well, you know, I was about to ask him if we
13 could drive them to the river. But I was afraid, because
14 I knew he would tell me no.

15 Now, this isn't going to work, ladies and
16 gentlemen. You got to fix it to water your cows. I was
17 afraid of that. I'm just getting started. Gee.

18 We've got to do something different on the
19 water rights. You cannot get a water right in Colorado to
20 water your cattle today. All the water the river runs is
21 already decreed. By George, those cows have an
22 entitlement to drink. You can tell I'm defensive.

23 MR. REUWSAAT: Mr. Shawcraft, if you could

24 wrap it up in the next few seconds, that will be great.

25 We will always accept written comments as well.

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30

1 MR. SHAWCRAFT: Okay. Thank you for your
2 time. I appreciate you more than you know.

3 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, sir. Gerald
4 Chacon.

5 MR. CHACON: Good evening. My name is
6 Gerald Chacon. I'm a BLM permittee as well, and raise on
7 forest lands and state lands and private lands in northern
8 Rio Arriba County. I'm here today representing my family,
9 the Chacon family, who have been in Rio Arriba County for
10 many, many generations.

11 I would like to note that the community that
12 I live in, Espanola, is where the grazing industry was
13 started in the land that we call the United States
14 nowadays, in 1598. Don Juan de Onate brought 1,200 head
15 of livestock to the valley. And since that time,
16 continuously, we have been on the lands that are now
17 public lands as well our private and others.

18 I would like to say that we're very much
19 appreciative of the fact that you are offering this
20 opportunity to comment on this process. We appreciate
21 Director Hughes and the Secretary's involvement and our
22 state staff's involvement in this process. And really
23 look forward to the opportunities that these proposals may

24 afford us.

25 We are extremely anxious to implement these

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31

1 conservation practices that we have been trying to do on
2 our BLM ranch for a number of years. And we are
3 experiencing what some call agency paralysis and the
4 inability to get physical work done on our public land
5 allotment.

6 This paralysis, I feel, has really hurt the
7 agency's creditability, has hurt the ranchers'
8 creditability, has hurt our rural communities economically
9 and socially. Anything that we can do that can help us to
10 be able to maintain our lands will help us to maintain our
11 families in a better way and to make our rural communities
12 much more independent and to maintain their sustainability
13 for future generations.

14 We'd like to think that we would be here for
15 the next four hundred years as well doing what we love and
16 what we think we're very good at. This process certainly
17 and the proposals that are afforded to us from this
18 process will go a long way to strengthen our communities
19 and our families.

20 We appreciate you giving us this
21 opportunity. Thank you.

22 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Tom Runyan.

23 MR. RUNYAN: My name is Tom Runyan, New

24 Mexico Wool Growers, Incorporated. My wife and I are
25 permittees on a ranch south of Pinon in Otero County. We

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32

1 raise sheep there. We've been there for several
2 generations -- three generations.

3 We would like to take this opportunity,
4 Deputy Director Hughes, with your BLM team, to thank you
5 for coming down and conducting these scoping meetings.
6 It's time. We need to make some changes out there.

7 I'm not going to take a lot of time right
8 now to make a lot of comment. But I do have a couple of
9 items I would like to go over. That is, we, the New
10 Mexico Wool Growers, and our family, would like to see a
11 switch back to the rules and regulations that we saw under
12 the Taylor Grazing Act. Those worked very well for many,
13 many years.

14 I would just like to reiterate, also, at
15 this time, that due to the fact of ownership of
16 improvements, we've seen a very negative impact on
17 wildlife, on grazing systems and just general management
18 of ranches due to the ownership problems out there with
19 new improvements.

20 At this time, I'd like to -- I agree with
21 Mike Casabonne on his statements. The New Mexico Wool
22 Growers, Incorporated, will provide written comments at a
23 later date.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Runyan.

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33

1 Elizabeth Johnson.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. I'm Elizabeth
3 Johnson with the Sandoval County Commission. I represent
4 the permittees in Sandoval County. I'm not prepared to
5 make comments tonight, although I really appreciate the
6 fact that you're here and willing to hear us. But I do
7 plan to turn in my written comments at the appropriate
8 time.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Randell Major.

11 MR. MAJOR: Thank you for coming. My name
12 is Randell Major. I'm an allottee owner in Cibola County.
13 I'm here to represent myself and my family.

14 First of all, I agree with Mike Casabonne
15 from the Public Lands Council; and second, I oppose the
16 buy-out program. Instead of the government buy-out, I was
17 hoping we could figure out a way to improve the
18 agriculture economy, so we can continue to make a living
19 for ourselves and all businesses related; and so we can
20 continue to feed America.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Major. Roy
23 Farr.

24 MR. FARR: Hello. I'm Roy Farr, an
25 allotment owner from Catron County. I agree with what

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34

1 Mike Casabonne said and also Mr. Runyan. I'd like to see
2 if we can find a way for putting in new improvements on a
3 WSA and also making sure we can maintain our old one, so
4 we can keep the land in good condition.

5 Thank you-all for coming and listening to
6 us.

7 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you, Mr. Farr. Bob
8 Jones.

9 MR. BOBBY JONES: Bob or Bobby Jones?

10 MR. REUWSAAT: Well, it says "Bob Jones."
11 Next one is Bobby.

12 MR. BOB JONES: He's chickening out, I
13 think. We would certainly -- my name is Bob Jones. I'm a
14 member of the New Mexico Cattle Growers and the Public
15 Lands Council of New Mexico, and a member of the Paragon
16 Foundation, who's devoted to private property rights and
17 preserving rural America. That's who we think -- we're
18 all that and where we have to go.

19 I've been in more -- different kind of
20 things over the years. I hate to look back and remember,
21 because -- but I'd like to say, how much we appreciate all
22 of you-all coming down to attempt to try and straighten
23 some of the problems out that we've had in the past.

24 I have about three little short things that
25 I would like to enter into this. We're five generations

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35

1 in southern Otero County. We've been there all that time.
2 Sometimes it's been difficult to stay there. It's been
3 harder in the last few years because of the drought,
4 because of other things that are going on or -- going on
5 and have gone on before.

6 But we would like to see Section 4 permits
7 reinstated. We would also like to see that the field
8 office's designation that Secretary Babbitt put into
9 effect be thrown out the window and the old way put back.

10 We would like to see the district grazing
11 advisory board reconstituted. We will have more comments
12 to make in more detail, of what you-all are doing here,
13 but I must say that we're appreciative of it. We support
14 it and we thank you.

15 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Now it's Bobby's
16 turn.

17 MR. BOBBY JONES: As you know by now, my
18 name is Bobby Jones. I'm a rancher in southern Otero
19 County; also, member of the New Mexico Public Lands
20 Council; also, a member of the New Mexico Cattle Growers
21 Association, who I represent here as the chairman of the
22 Federal Lands Committee.

23 I appreciate you-all giving us a chance to

24 make these comments. I will touch on a few points. Then
25 we will submit written comments by the May 2 deadline.

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36

1 Also, we look forward to some of these
2 changes, because we think that it's going to help the
3 economic stability of the counties in New Mexico.

4 We have some real concerns about the reserve
5 common allotment. We will address those in our written
6 comments. We ask you to consider the grazing advisory
7 boards at the district level. That's part of the Taylor
8 Grazing Act.

9 We also wish you to look at the policy
10 concerning Section 4 permits. Because it is policy, it's
11 statutory, that those permits be allowed. That's part of
12 the Taylor Grazing Act.

13 We also ask that you do not fragment the
14 NEPA process and be sure to include Section 101 of NEPA.
15 Because that's the human dimension. That's the general
16 term given to it. That's the social, economic stability
17 that has to be addressed in the NEPA process.

18 We also would ask that you adhere to state
19 water laws throughout the West, because that's what
20 protects all of us there.

21 Thanks again.

22 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Ronnie Merritt.

23 MR. MERRITT: My name is Ronnie Merritt.

24 I'm a New Mexico rancher. I will send in my comments by
25 May 2. But I would just like to say that there's some

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37

1 awful good comments that have come in, especially Mike
2 Casabonne's, New Mexico Public Lands Council, and Bobby
3 Jones and Bob Jones.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. REUWSAAT: Linn Blancett.

6 MR. BLANCETT: Linn Blancett, sixth
7 generation rancher, San Juan County permittee, member of
8 the New Mexico Cattle Growers, president of the San Juan
9 Basin Livestock Association. Thank you very much for
10 coming and giving us this time to address the problems
11 that we have. We very much appreciate it.

12 I would like to reinforce what's been said
13 here tonight. I think the Section 4 permits or the
14 ownership by the permittee of improvements on the range
15 will definitely encourage range improvement. I will
16 address other things in written comments later.

17 Thank you again.

18 MR. REUWSAAT: Tweetie Blancett.

19 MS. BLANCETT: Bienvenidos. Welcome. We're
20 glad to have you here in New Mexico. It is truly the Land
21 of Enchantment. You just heard from my husband.

22 I'm going to tell you how proud we are to

23 stand in heritage and history of the ones that have gone
24 before us, and to carry on the tradition of ranching that
25 we have in New Mexico. It's very important to us that we

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38

1 have this.

2 I wear a little bit different hat than some
3 of the people that have spoken before me. I do have very
4 strong ties to the ranching community, but I also have
5 alliances across five state areas that include Montana,
6 Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. We've
7 got seven states, but they're -- we're all working
8 together.

9 The issues that we're working on have to do
10 with the impacts of oil and gas on our grazing permits. I
11 guess what I would ask you to do is consider us equally,
12 because you lease to the oil and gas industry land for
13 development of the severance. As a result, the industry
14 goes in and they place their improvements on it. They own
15 their improvements. And they have their lease for as long
16 as that lease produces.

17 We, on the other hand, also have a lease.
18 Our lease is for ten years. Generally, it's renewable.
19 But we don't have all the assets that are on our lease.
20 So, as you look at grazing, I think we need to be
21 considered equal with the other lessees of federal lands.

22 I guess the final thing I would like to

23 submit is, I would like to give you a position paper.
24 It's the Western Energy agenda. It's endorsed by many
25 organizations. Many of them are broad-based environmental

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39

1 groups that have ranchers, farmers, private landowners,
2 irrigators, throughout the West.

3 In this paper, we have stated how we would
4 like you to consider our surface issues as they relate to
5 the extractive industry, because it has an impact on us as
6 grazing.

7 Thank you for being here. Thank you for
8 giving us the opportunity to present our ideas and our
9 comments.

10 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. David Strip.

11 MR. STRIP: Hello. My name is David Strip.
12 I'm a ranch owner in southern Rio Arriba County. However,
13 I do not breed cattle or any other livestock. I respect
14 the occupations of my neighbors and lifestyle choices
15 they've made.

16 However, I still have serious concerns about
17 the number of the changes that you're proposing. In
18 particular, the notion of ownership of improvements is of
19 concern, in part, because many of these improvements,
20 while they improve the quality of the land for the purpose
21 of grazing, are not an improvement for many of the other
22 uses of the land. To reward permittees for making changes

23 to the land that are not advantageous to the other
24 purposes and uses of the land is not appropriate.

25 I'm also concerned about allowing locked

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40

1 gates which restrict public access to the public lands.

2 I'm also very concerned about any changes to eliminate the
3 conservation use permits.

4 And then, finally, my largest concern is the
5 continuing efforts by the BLM to restrict engagement of
6 broad public interest in issues regarding public land.
7 Attempting to reduce the number of people who are allowed
8 to appeal rulings is inappropriate.

9 I think that the BLM should take it, as
10 their obligation, to reach out to the vast part of the
11 country, 200,000, 250,000 million people who are not
12 engaged in ranching and solicit their input on the use of
13 their public lands.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Bonnie Kline.

16 MS. KLINE: I'm the executive director for
17 the Colorado Wool Growers Association. We truly
18 appreciate having Washington, D.C., come out to the West
19 instead of us having to go out to D.C. to visit.

20 I'd just like to mention, as the BLM asks
21 permittees to adhere to current and future grazing

22 regulations, we would ask the BLM to adhere to their
23 current management objectives on their wild horses.

24 This is a big issue in northwest Colorado.
25 I'm going to take the liberty of talking on behalf of my

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41

1 friends from Wyoming, as well, that this impacts.
2 Permittees in Colorado and Wyoming are oftentimes asked to
3 cut back their AUMs, because the -- of wild horses or
4 overherd objectives. We see that as a problem.

5 There's a lot of people out there that like
6 the idea of the wild horses, but yet there's a handful of
7 ranchers that are asked to shoulder that burden. Truly,
8 one of the problems with that being overherd objectives is
9 truly that that pipeline is full on the adoption process
10 for the wild horses.

11 We really think the government needs to
12 consider reopening the Wild Horse and Burro Act to address
13 this issue. You know, permittees always have range land
14 health in mind when they're managing their grazing
15 allotments. But there's truly an unfortunate situation
16 out here where the BLM is not managing their wild horses.
17 We think that the government needs to take a look at that.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Laurie Fulkerson.

20 MS. FULKERSON: Hello. My name is Laurie
21 Fulkerson. I'm the grazing coordinator for Forest

22 Guardians. Forest Guardians actually has some serious
23 concerns about the environmental implications of the
24 proposed BLM regulation changes.

25 One concern we have is that the advance

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42

1 notice of the proposed rule making is very vague, which
2 leads us to believe that the proposed changes can't be
3 good.

4 Based on the Forest Guardians can gather
5 from the Federal Register, notice, in effect, we believe
6 that the proposed changes will curtail the ability of the
7 public to participate in grazing administration and policy
8 decisions, and further weaken current environmental
9 standards on our public lands.

10 In particular, there are seven proposed
11 changes to the BLM grazing regulations that the Forest
12 Guardians are concerned with and ultimately opposed to.

13 The first of these is the consideration of
14 altering the administrative appeals process on grazing
15 decisions. Forest Guardians is concerned that, in
16 practice, those changes would reduce the ability of the
17 public to participate in appealing grazing administration
18 policy decisions and essentially shut the public out.
19 Overall, Forest Guardians is opposed to any changes to the
20 current appeals process on grazing decisions.

21 Secondly, BLM is proposing to authorize

22 temporarily locked gates on public lands, which the agency
23 claims is an effort to protect private land and improve
24 livestock operations. However, it's currently illegal to
25 block or lock gates on public lands. The public has every

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43

1 right to access to those lands. If the BLM is doing a
2 good job of managing those lands, the agency should
3 welcome public oversight of those lands.

4 The third thing we are concerned about is
5 the proposal to designate a new type of "reserve common
6 allotments." Our main concern is that this proposal would
7 allow previously vacant allotments to be unretired for use
8 as reserve forage areas by permittees whose allotments are
9 being overgrazed and given time to recover.

10 The problem with this proposal is that it
11 fails to remove the big problem of overstocking or
12 attempts to graze lands that are not suitable for grazing.
13 Further, the proposal would extend damage from grazing to
14 public lands that are in better condition, essentially
15 creating a sacrifice zone.

16 So, we believe the reserve common allotments
17 are not the answer to overgrazing. Instead damaged
18 allotments should be rested and allowed to recover, and
19 vacant allotments should remain in recovery. So,
20 ultimately, Forest Guardians is opposed to the concept of
21 reserve common allotments.

22 Another change that BLM is proposing,
23 according to the proposed rule making, is reinstating the
24 pre-1994 provision that allows the BLM and grazing
25 permittees to share title of grazing improvements.

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44

1 Essentially, this provision transfers ownership of public
2 infrastructure to private hands and would make it more
3 difficult for the BLM to remove permittees who overgraze
4 the lands and could possibly result in taking lawsuits.
5 So, as such, Forest Guardians is opposed to that change as
6 well.

7 This fifth change that the BLM is

8 considering is an extension of conservation nonuse from
9 three to five years. While the Forest Guardians welcome
10 this extension, we believe that a longer period of rest
11 should be permitted than five years.

12 Another change that we're concerned about is
13 the emphasis that reviews under NEPA will consider
14 economic, social and cultural impacts of BLM decisions.
15 The BLM should include all of the costs to taxpayers of
16 continued grazing programs. Socioeconomic concerns of
17 ranchers should not be elevated at the expense of
18 environmental protection.

19 The last proposed change that we're
20 concerned about is the proposal to clarify the kinds of
21 nonpermit violations that the BLM may take into account in

22 penalizing a permittee. Forest Guardians strongly
23 maintains that the BLM should deny grazing permits to
24 livestock operators who are convicted of violating
25 environmental laws that were implemented to protect

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45

1 private lands.

2 We appreciate the opportunity to voice our
3 concerns today. We will be submitting written comments
4 before May 2.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. George Douds.

7 MR. DOUDS: Well, good evening. I'm George
8 Douds. I'm from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
9 We would like to thank you for coming and allowing us to
10 speak to you. We would also like to thank you for
11 reconsidering some of these rules.

12 As you've heard tonight -- I'm going to kind
13 of speak off the cuff here a little bit. As you've heard
14 tonight, small changes in a lot of these regulations will
15 have a very large impact on the livestock industry. We do
16 look forward to submitting comments on these in the
17 future. So, once again, thank you.

18 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. Dell LeFevre.

19 MR. LeFEVRE: I'm Dell LeFevre from up in
20 Utah. I want to tell these New Mexico cowboys, for the
21 last time, I never did like coming down here. I saddle

22 bronc'ed for 16 years. These guys can outride me. We all
23 have gotten old now.

24 But anyhow, I run cattle in King County,
25 Garfield County and Wayne County. I'm also a County

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46

1 Commissioner in Garfield County. So I'm going to speak
2 for King County, Garfield and Wayne County.

3 We are really happy that you're doing what
4 you're doing. We really took a hit when Babbitt got in
5 there. The only thing I felt bad about, back in the '60s,
6 when I was in the service, was a Babbitt got killed, but
7 it was the wrong one.

8 But we'll have some comments. I just want
9 people to know that Utah is definitely interested in what
10 you're doing. We appreciate you.

11 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. I'm going to go
12 back to Frank Brooks to see if he returned to the room.
13 If not, if somebody has not turned in a card, but would
14 wish to make a comment, that has not spoken, please stand
15 up and come to the microphone or forever hold your peace.

16 MR. BRAWLEY: My name is Pete Brawley. I'm
17 a permittee in southeastern Arizona. Member of the
18 Arizona Cattle Growers Association, co-chair of the Public
19 Lands Committee for Arizona Cattle Growers Association.

20 I appreciate the lady's comment -- forgive
21 me. I forget where she's from -- about the wild horses in

22 Colorado. In Arizona, we have a similar situation.
23 There's permittees that's been asked to remove their
24 cattle because of drought. At the same time, the
25 unmanaged burros in the area are actually eating the bark

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47

1 off the trees.
2 The BLM tells us that budget restraints keep
3 them from gathering them. The pipeline is full. When
4 they do gather them, there's no place for them to go. The
5 adoption process needs to be changed. It needs to be
6 speeded up.

7 It's costing them a lot of money to take
8 care of these horses in the facilities where they're being
9 fed. Of course, we all know there's two classifications.
10 One that -- where you can't adopt them and you can't
11 destroy them. That definitely needs to be changed.

12 In the area of the -- setting side an
13 allotment -- the greenbelt or whatever you want to call
14 it. There's areas there of allotments that aren't being
15 used under the ephemeral range classification. Some of
16 these allotments, in my opinion, should have not been
17 classified as ephemeral range.

18 What happens is, the improvements go down,
19 the waters go down, the permittee goes to town and they're
20 basically laying their idle. Those lands should be put

21 back into production. If they are put back into
22 production, the permittee or the people that might use
23 them, needs some help from the BLM through A-100 monies or
24 range improvement monies. Range improvement monies that's
25 earmarked to come back to be used on the ground as range

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48

1 improvements.

2 I appreciate you coming out. I appreciate
3 Mr. Hughes and Mr. Ray coming out earlier in the season
4 when there was -- when they came to Deming, New Mexico. I
5 thought it was a very productive meeting. I think we need
6 to work in the area of better communication and build a
7 better working relationship with our agencies. I think
8 we've seen quite a lot of that done in the past. This
9 proposed rule changes is one step in that direction.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. If there's no one
12 else -- please come up, sir.

13 MR. ROMERO: My name is Joe Romero. I'm a
14 rancher from the southern part of Rio Arriba. I am a past
15 resource advisory council member. While I was on the
16 resource advisory board, we worked very hard to try to get
17 the human dimension in our standards. After a lot of
18 work, it was sent to Washington. After Babbitt's rules
19 and they looked over it, we got turned down.

20 On behalf of the resource advisory board, I

21 feel very disappointed in what had happened with the human
22 dimension. I hope that you can consider and really look
23 at the human dimension on further needs of BLM.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. REUWSAAT: Thank you. If there's no one

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49

1 else, Deputy Director Hughes has a few closing remarks.

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3 (The Proceeding concluded at 7:43 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, Yvonne C. Gonzales, a Certified Court Reporter, do
3 hereby certify that the Proceedings of the above-entitled
4 cause were reported by me stenographically on March 25,
5 2003, and that the within transcript is a true and
6 accurate transcription of my shorthand notes.

7 I further certify that I am neither an attorney nor
8 counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the
9 parties to the action, and that I am not a relative or
10 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
11 parties hereto, or financially interested in the action.

12

13

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Yvonne C. Gonzales, CCR
Notary Public

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My Commission expires:
3-20-2005

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